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should not be identified with the final and absolute good. The worth of machines of any sort depends upon the uses to which they are put. In a community that groans under a system of organized pillage, wood paths and thickets may be more serviceable as avenues of escape than the smooth pavements of public highways.

In Berg the French organized a state with a population of three millions, who gained their livelihood chiefly from the industries of iron, steel, wool, cotton, and silk. The improved governmental machinery was applied, and in five years the export trade was reduced from 60,000,000 to 11,000,000 francs, first, by cutting off the foreign market, second, by refusing to open a new market in France, and third, by wholesale confiscations of the raw material in sight. As the resources of the state diminished, the burdens increased, first, by the enlargement of the military establishment in five years from one regiment to nearly 10,000 men at an annual cost of more than 4,000,000 francs, and after the Russian disaster by an additional conscription of more than 4,000 men. Additional burdens were imposed by contributions to support a French army of occupation, which in 1810 numbered 12,000 men, by a further war contribution of 1,500,000 francs, and by the appropriation of 250,000 francs per annum from the state domains and other sums for pensions to the relatives and generals of the emperor. If Mr. Fisher had called his book "*Studies in Napoleonic Spoliation in Germany*", he would have given it a more descriptive title.

JOHN H. CONEY.

The South American Republics. By THOMAS C. DAWSON, Secretary of the United States Legation to Brazil. In two volumes. Vol. I., Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil. [Story of the Nations.] (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1903. Pp. xvi, 525.)

THE general plan of the work is to follow an introductory chapter on "The Discoveries and the Conquest" by separate parts devoted to the east coast countries in the first volume, and to those of the west and north coasts in the second. Of this volume about two hundred and twenty-five pages are devoted to Brazil, one hundred and twenty-five to Argentina, and sixty each to Paraguay and Uruguay. There are some sixty illustrations that are in the main well-chosen, but the three maps are a disgrace to the publishers.

It is not easy to estimate the weight of new statements in a book that has no foot-notes, no distinct references to authorities, and only a short list of books that "have been of use in the preparation of the first volume". But when this list is preceded by a statement that "Personal observations through a residence of six years in South America; conversations with public men, scholars, merchants, and proprietors; newspapers and reviews, political pamphlets, books of travel, and official publications, have furnished me with most of my material for the

period since 1825" (p. vi), the task becomes less difficult. Yet is it fair even then to proceed upon the supposition that apart from "personal observations", etc., only those books have been used which are mentioned? Take, for instance, the list of authorities on Paraguay. Although it is very short, it includes Graham's *A Vanished Arcadia*, but makes not the slightest mention of such standard writers as Charlevoix, Muratori, Dobrizhoffer, Rengger, Graty, Burton, Hutchinson, or Robertson. If they have been used, why is the weight of their prestige not added to the list? If they have not, it becomes difficult to recommend Mr. Dawson's account of Paraguay. Judged on its own merits, there is little which entitles it to serious consideration, except its brevity. In a varying degree, the same criticism applies to the other countries. A few good secondary authorities seem to have furnished the material for the early periods, while a large general knowledge of present conditions has enabled Mr. Dawson to treat the modern period with considerable skill.

There are so few available works on South American history that one is tempted to regard this book as an addition to our knowledge of the general subject, even though its title limits it to the history of the past hundred years. If this is carefully borne in mind, and the reader conscientiously omits all the chapters dealing with prerevolutionary times, Mr. Dawson's book can be heartily recommended, for it does give an admirable exposition of recent history on the east coast of South America. But those who persist in reading a book through "from cover to cover" must be warned against underestimating Mr. Dawson's account of events in the nineteenth century, after finding certain statements about the earlier times that have become obsolete. For instance, we read in the introductory chapter that Columbus went forth "convinced that there were islands in the far Atlantic waiting to be discovered" (p. 8), and "showed strategic genius of the highest order in choosing Hayti as the site of the first settlement" as affording an "admirable base for the conquest of the New World" (p. 10). Historical ideas of fifty years ago are still further called to mind when one reads of "Spanish columns" marching over "magnificent mountain roads". Furthermore it is somewhat disconcerting to find it stated that "At the very moment that Charles V. was crushing Peninsular freedom by brutal military force, the genius of Magellan and Cortes gave him the whole of America. Spain had heretofore been a federation of self-governing communes and provinces, but their independence was now destroyed" (p. 20).

After such an introduction it is difficult to realize that when Mr. Dawson reaches the War of Emancipation he is thoroughly trustworthy; but such is the fact. The misleading manifestos of the period have been given their fair valuation, and the conditions preceding the war are well set forth. Here is the cause of the war in a nutshell: "The Spaniards wished to retain their privileged position; the Creoles were determined to put an end to discrimination against themselves" (p. 89). While every one has heard of Bolivar, few have heard of San Martin;

and yet he did for the southern half of the continent what Bolivar did for the northern half. Our ignorance of him is due to the fact that "Unlike his predecessors and colleagues, he did not concern himself with political ambitions". "He had none of the brilliantly attractive qualities, none of the eloquence or charm of most South American leaders; he had a horror of display, and made but one speech in all his life" (p. 98). In the period following the War of Emancipation, one cannot help admiring the skill with which Mr. Dawson has unraveled the tangled skein of revolution and counter-revolution. The account of the growth and development of Argentina is especially illuminative, and has that graphic quality which comes from personal intercourse with the leaders in the state. After reading the six chapters devoted to Uruguay, chapters filled with incessant strife between *blancos* and *colorados*, one marvels at the unreasonableness of it all. Apparently the best explanation that can be offered is simply human greed and selfishness. "As is usual in South America, the dominant party split into factions, led by ambitious chiefs" (p. 273), and the fighting began all over again. In the part devoted to Brazil Mr. Dawson is at his best. He is thoroughly familiar with the subject, and treats it with marked admiration. He even ventures to assert that Brazil "is destined within the next two centuries to support the largest population of any of the great political divisions of the globe" (p. 289).

One has constantly to make due allowance for Mr. Dawson's enthusiasm and for his fondness for the superlative, but rarely does one meet with such an able exposition of South American politics. The second volume will be welcomed with interest. HIRAM BINGHAM.

Texas: a Contest of Civilizations. By GEORGE P. GARRISON. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company. 1903. Pp. vii, 320.)

THE general plan and method of the "American Commonwealths" series, to which this volume belongs, are too familiar to need explanation. The appearance of new books belonging to this series is a matter of something more than local interest, since they are intended for a larger class of readers than are other books on state history, and for that reason are apt to be accepted at home and abroad as the standard accounts of the growth of the different states and the contributions they have made to our national life. Dr. Garrison has for several years been professor of history in the University of Texas, and has devoted much attention to the history of that state. He is, therefore, thoroughly qualified to write authoritatively on the subject to which this book is devoted. As is stated in the preface, the book "is not intended for a history of Texas", but rather "a study" based on the history of that state. Such a study involves more or less extensive investigation into the history of Spain, France, England, Mexico, and the United States. This work seems to have been carefully done by Professor Garrison, since one of the strongest features of his book is the skilful presentation of these necessary European connections.